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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the Applicants' duty to disclose information which may be material to the examination of this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that the Examiner consider on the merits the document listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) before issuing the first Office Action on the merits. The document cited on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) is enclosed herewith.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 C.F.R. 1.97(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. (Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25.)

Information Disclosure Statement April 2, 2004 Page 2

The person making this statement is the practitioner who signs below on the basis of information supplied by an individual associated with the filing and prosecution of this application (37 $C.F.R. \S 1.56(c)$) and on the basis of information in the practitioner's file.

If any fees are due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 12-0415 or credit any overpayment to our Account No. 12-0415. No fees should be due because this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently with the above-identified U.S. patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard P. Berg Attorney for Applicant Reg. No. 28,145

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Enclosures: Form PTO-1449 (modified) (1 page)
Copy of document listed in Form PTO-1449 (modified)

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Form PTO-1449 (Modified)	ATTY DOCKET NO. U.S. SERIAL NO. B-5409 621803-3 Not yet assigned					
LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS	APPLICANT(S) Hiroshi KOBAYASHI					
STATEMENT	FILING DATE Concurrently herewith	GROUP Not yet assigned				

April	2,	2004		<u>U.S.</u>	PATEN'	r docu	MENTS
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE

			<u>FU</u>	KETGN	PATENT	DOCUMENTS
:	DOCUMENT NUMBER	PUBLICATION DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO
	1043644 A1	10/2000	EP			

OTHER	DOCUMENTS	(Including	Author,	Title,	Date,	Pertinent	Pages,	Etc.)

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.